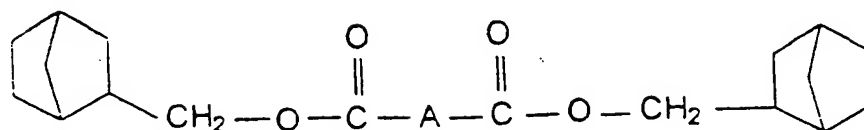


In the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended)

A carboxylic ester of the formula



where A is $\text{-(CH}_2\text{)}_x\text{-}$, where x is selected from the group consisting of 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10.

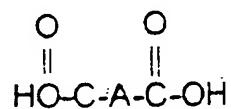
Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (previously presented)

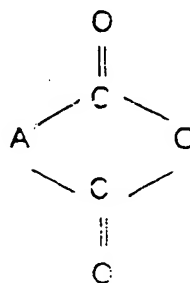
A process for preparing the carboxylic

esters as claimed in claim 1 via reaction of 2-hydroxymethylnorbornane with

dicarboxylic acids of formula



or with their anhydrides of the formula



where A is as defined in Claim 1, in the presence of an entrainer for removal, in the form of an azeotropic mixture, of the water formed during the course of the reaction, and, where appropriate, in the presence of a catalyst, removal of excess and unconverted starting materials, treatment with an alkaline reagent for removal of acidic constituents, and then, where appropriate, steam distillation, followed by drying and/or fractional distillation.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (currently amended) In lubricants or plasticizers provided with thermoplastics having low viscosity and pour point, the improvement comprising using the lubricant or plasticizer a compound of Claim 1.

Claim 6 (cancelled).